

Appl. No. : 09/199,747
Filed : November 25, 1998

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, Robert J. Roby at (949) 721-6359 (direct line) in order to resolve such issue promptly.

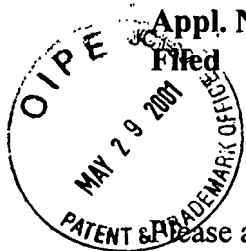
Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 23, 2001

By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Please amend Claims 1, 12, 16, 20-22 and 25 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A compensated nut for a stringed instrument, the stringed instrument having one or more strings, a body and a neck, the nut comprising:

an elongated body having a length sufficient to extend across at least a portion of the neck of the stringed instrument; and

one or more fixed intonation portions on a front side of the elongated body, the intonation portions having different dimensions according to the desired pitch compensation for each string **and being configured such that a line extending through the one or more fixed intonation portions does not form a sinusoidal arc.**

12. (Twice Amended) A guitar, comprising:

a body;

a neck connected to the body;

a bridge connected to the body;

a compensated nut connected to the neck, the compensated nut including an elongated body with a length sufficient to extend across at least a portion of the neck of the guitar, the elongated body having a plurality of fixed intonation portions with different dimensions according to the desired pitch of the stringed instrument **and the plurality of fixed intonation portions being configured such that a line extending through the plurality of fixed intonation portions does not form a sinusoidal arc;**

a plurality of strings passing over the bridge and the nut; and

a tuning key attached to each string, the tuning keys adapted and configured to adjust the tension in the plurality of strings.

16. (Amended) A lute-type instrument, comprising:

a body including a bridge;

a neck attached to the body;

a compensated nut connected to the neck, the nut having a front side and a bottom side, the nut including one or more cut-out sections on the front side, **the one or more cut-out sections**

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being disposed such that a line intersecting said one or more cut-out sections does not form a sinusoidal arc; and

a plurality of strings extending from the bridge to the nut.

20. (Twice Amended) A method of making an instrument with a plurality of strings, the instrument including a body, a neck and a bridge, comprising:

mounting a nut to the neck of the instrument, the nut including an elongated body with a front side, a back side, a top side, and a bottom side, the body having a length sufficient to extend across at least a portion of the neck of the stringed instrument, the nut including one or more fixed intonation portions on the front side of the elongated body, the intonation portions having different dimensions according to the desired pitch of the stringed instrument **and the different dimensions of the intonation portions resulting in a nonsinusoidal configuration among the intonation portions;**

extending the strings from the bridge to the nut; and

attaching the strings to the bridge and the neck of the instrument.

21. (Twice Amended) A nut for a stringed instrument, comprising:

an elongated body;

a plurality of slots on a surface of the body; and

fixed means for compensating the intonation of one or more strings of the instrument, **the fixed means being nonsinusoidal in configuration.**

22. (Twice Amended) A nut for a stringed instrument, comprising:

a substantially unitary elongated body, the body having a length sufficient to extend across at least a portion of the neck of the stringed instrument;

a plurality of slots across the elongated body configured to position corresponding strings; and

a plurality of fixed string termination points along said elongated body, each termination point corresponding to one of said plurality of slots, at least one of said string termination points offset in distance from another of said termination points with respect to a line perpendicular to said

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strings, and said fixed termination points defining a nonsinusoidal line with respect to said line perpendicular to said strings.

25. (Twice Amended) A compensated zero fret for a stringed instrument, the stringed instrument having one or more strings, a body and a neck, the zero fret comprising:

an elongated body having a length sufficient to extend across at least a portion of the neck of the stringed instrument; and

one or more fixed intonation portions on the front side of the elongated body, the intonation portions having different dimensions according to the desired pitch compensation for each string and the intonation portions being configured such that a line extending through said fixed intonation portions does not form a sinusoidal arc.

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